their report have shown Jammu and Kashmir as a separate entity with undefined status of boundaries, and the area illegally seized by Pakistan has been shown as a part of China. The mistake has been pointed out in India's comments, which have been published along with the report of International Commission of Jurists.

Conveying India's Stand on NPT to EU Representatives

6201. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have reiterated India's stand on NPT aimed at nuclear weapon free world to the visiting EU representatives in the context of Pakistan Prime Minister's admission that Pakistan was setting up a nuclear reactor capable of producing plutonium for use in nuclear weapons;

(b) if so, in what precise terms; and

(c) what was the EU's and American reaction and response thereon?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The Indo-EU Troika Ministerial level talks were held in Paris on 6 April 1995. We conveyed our principled and consistent position on the NPT and emphasised that global elimination of nuclear weapons was the means of achieving genuine non-proliferation. The EU Troika informed us of their support for an indefinite and unconditional extension of the NPT and welcomed the bilateral dialogue with certain EU countries on disarmament issues.

Activities of ICCR Abroad

6202. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made an assessment of the activities of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) if so, the main features of the assessment made thereon; and

(c) what directives have been issued, if any, in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The activities of the ICCR are subject to ongoing assessment by the statutory bodies which govern ICCR, namely, the Fiance Committee, the Governing Body and the General Assembly. The activities of the Council have also been assessed by the Standing Committee of Parliament for the Ministry of External Affairs. The Ministry of External Affairs, which is the Ministry which provides ICCR with its budget, also assesses the working of the Council.

(b) The main features of the assessment made by the statutory bodies, and by Parliament and MEA are;

(i) The importance of the ICCR's activities in the realm of cultural diplomacy was endorsed and the need to expand and intensify these activities, with a higher budget underlined.

(ii) Greater involvement by our Missions aborad in cultural activities by designating specific officers as cultural officers.

(iii) Effective use to be made of our cultural centres abroad.

(iv) Continuing attention towards streamlining of the scholarships handled by ICCR for international students, as well as their welfare.

(v) Maximising the impact of our cultural troupes that are sent abroad by developing tours taking them to a number of countries.

(c) (i) The budget of the ICCR has been enhanced by Rs. 6 crores for the year 1994-95 from Rs. 15 crores to Rs. 21 crores.

(ii) A Committee has been set up to look into the functioning of the Indian Cultural Centres abroad, as well as ICCR's regional centres in India.

(iii) Directives have been issued to Missions on the importance of cultural diplomacy and also the need to keep in mind local conditions when making recommendations for cultural troupes, etc.

(iv) An inter-ministerial meeting has been held to look into the question of international student welfare including their stipends, etc. Meetings have also been held with MEA to streamline the processing of scholarships for international students under various schemes including cultural exchange programmes.

Opening of Passport Office in Mangalore

6203. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Passport applications received by the Bangalore Passport Office from Dakshina Kannada district during 1994;

(b) the total number of passport applications received by the Bangalore Pasport Office during the same period; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to open a new Passport Office at Mangalore to cater to the damands of Dakshina Kannada district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) The total number of applications received by Bangalore Passport Office from Dakshina Kannada District during 1994 was 18371.

(b) A total of 82171 applications were received by Passport Office, Bangalore in 1994.

(c) A Collection 'Centre is being opened in Mangalore.

Foreign Secretary Level Talks Between India and Singapore

6204. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Singapore Foreign Secretary had recently held discussions with the Indian Foreign Secretary and inter alia assured him of his country's support for India to be included in the Asia-EU group in future as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' on the Ist March, 1995;

(b) if so, the details of talks held and the outcome thereof;

(c) what are the countries likely to attend this first-ever Asia European Union Summit to be held in 1996 in Thailand;

(d) which other countries, besides Singapore, are in favour of India's membership of ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and Asia-EU Summit; and

(e) whether India, which is a major player in Asia, is contacting other friendly countries to get its deserving place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Discussions were held in April 1995 between the Indian Foreign Secretary and his Singaporean counterpart. The latter had inter alia assured the Indian Foreign Secretary of Singapore's support for India's inclusion in the Asia-European Union Summit.

(b) The talks focussed on aspects of bilateral cooperation between the two countries as well as matters of regional and international interest. These talks have led to greater understanding between the two countries.

(c) The core participation from Asia is to be that of ASEAN, which is in the process of considering, in consultation with EU, participation from other Asian countries particularly dynamic regional